

“Serving Those Who Served”

Call 1-800-562-2308 for Statewide assistance

www.dva.wa.gov

Vol. 4 Issue 16

SUMMER 2003



Department of
Veterans Affairs

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 273-6000
www.va.gov

News Release

VA Awards \$31.1 Million to Washington State Veterans Home



Secretary Principi and Gov. Locke hold the \$31.1 million dollar check as WDVA Director John King looks on.

May 21, 2003 - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has awarded a grant for more than \$31.1 million to Washington State for construction of a replacement nursing home facility at the Washington Veterans Home in Retsil.

“This grant reflects the federal-state partnership that is honoring our commitment to care for the men and women who have served in uniform,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. “This partnership provides a comfortable home for veterans in a time of great personal need.”

The grant will pay up to 65 percent of the cost to construct a replacement nursing home for veterans. The overall cost of the project is approximately \$47.8 million.

The new veterans home in Retsil will be a 240-bed facility that will provide skilled nursing care to eligible Washington veterans.

The Retsil nursing home opened its doors in 1910. Information about the facility can be found on the web at www.dva.wa.gov/VeteransHomes or by calling 360-895-4700.

WDVA Breaks Ground on New Veterans’ Nursing Facility



WDVA managers are excited about breaking ground for the new 240 bed facility being built at the Veterans Home in Retsil. (LtoR) Barbara Culley, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Fred Browning, John Lee, John King, Jerry Towne and Gary Condra.

May 16, 2003 - Gov. Gary Locke joined Anthony Principi, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and John King, director of the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), for a groundbreaking ceremony on a new, 240-bed, state-of-the-art veterans’ nursing facility in Retsil.

“This momentous occasion expresses our combined commitment to Washington’s aging veteran population,” King said. “The federal Department of Veterans Affairs and the state have acknowledged the need for this facility and we are honored to have them join with our veterans in celebrating this new beginning.”

Project History:

There are currently 670,000 veterans living in Washington state. Over the next 20 years, the number of veterans aged 65 and over is expected to increase by 20,000; those 85 and over will increase by 226 percent; and the number of Vietnam-era veterans will comprise nearly 40 percent of the overall veteran population.

A 1998 Service Delivery & Capital Planning Feasibility Study found the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) must invest in new nursing care facilities at the state veterans homes in order to meet earthquake standards and life-safety requirements.

Continued on page 6

What’s Inside...

<i>WDVA Breaks Ground</i>	<i>page 1</i>
<i>Director’s Message</i>	<i>page 2</i>
<i>VAAC Projects</i>	<i>page 3</i>
<i>National Notes</i>	<i>page 4</i>
<i>Groundbreaking/Construction</i>	<i>page 6</i>
<i>WA Veterans Homes Highlights</i>	<i>page 8</i>
<i>In the Spotlight is Alex Deluao</i>	<i>page 11</i>
<i>WDVA Field Services Goals</i>	<i>page 11</i>
<i>Korean War Armistice Commemoration</i>	<i>page 12</i>

Washington State
Dept of Veterans Affairs
PO Box 41150
1011 Plum St, 2nd Floor
Olympia, WA 98504-1150

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Washington State
Department of Printing

Veteran Voices is published for Washington state veterans and their family members, WDVA employees and Veterans Home residents.

Volume 4, Issue 16
SUMMER 2003

Governor
Gary Locke

WDVA Director
John M. King

Public Relations & Legislative Manager
Heidi Audette

Public Information Officer
Colleen Gilbert

Graphic Designer
Miriam Young

Call 1-877-VETS-R-US
(877-838-7787) for an application to the veterans homes.



Publication Information

Please submit comments, articles and address changes electronically to:
colleen@dva.wa.gov (360) 725-2180 or miriam@dva.wa.gov (360) 725-2169 or mail to:
Veteran Voices
PO Box 41150 Olympia, WA 98504.
Articles must be received by the 1st of March, June, Sept., and Dec., for consideration in the next issue.

Publication of articles is at the discretion of the *Veteran Voices* editorial board.

When credit is given to the source, articles from the *Veteran Voices* may be reprinted.

To obtain this publication in an alternative format call (360) 725-2169.



John M. King
WDVA Director

Director's Message

Caring for Veterans is Clearly a High Priority in WA State

What a session! For those of you who followed the 2003

Legislative Session, the road was long and it was bumpy. While few (if any) got exactly what they asked for, the coordinated efforts of many dedicated veteran advocates, especially members of the Veterans Legislative Coalition, steered WDVA in the right direction.

I would like to provide you with an overview of the final versions of the Capital and Operating budgets.

The final Capital Budget, which funds construction and maintenance, provided funding for necessary projects at each of the State Veterans Homes.

- ◆ Retsil Veterans Home Construction Project: \$12 million (General Obligation Bonds)
- ◆ Orting Soldiers Home Facility Preservation: \$750,000
- ◆ Spokane Veterans Home Kitchen: \$1.4 million (authority to finance)

Funding was also provided for a maintenance project at Retsil, an historic district management plan in conjunction with the construction project, and unanticipated emergency repairs. **Keep in mind that this was the smallest statewide Capital Budget in history and one of the largest WDVA has ever been given – we did exceptionally well!**

An Operating Budget deficit of more than \$2 billion challenged state legislators to focus on the essential services our government should provide. You might ask, How does WDVA fit into this equation? That is where the diligent work of our veteran advocates became so important. They helped us get the message out that WDVA is part of a budget solution, not a part of the problem. As a result, Governor Locke focused on

what is now known as the Priorities of Government and caring for Veterans is clearly a high priority.

Care provided in State Veterans Homes meets a critical need for veterans who otherwise could not afford necessary medical care. Caring for veterans in State Veterans Homes actually saves the state money.

Our work in Field Services furthers this effort by linking veterans with Federal VA medical coverage and compensation or pension. The result is a win-win situation for veterans and our state as many

veterans are able to remain self-sufficient and not rely on the assistance of other state and local programs.

You may remember early versions of the operating budget that reduced funding for Field Services. I am pleased to report the final 03-05 Operating Budget provides WDVA with the funding necessary to continue its critical mission around Field Services.

However, it is important to understand that WDVA's portion of state general fund money did not

increase. Field Services received general-fund state dollars that were shifted from the Veterans Homes. This shift is possible because the Veterans Homes are performing at extremely high levels and are earning more federal and local dollars. The Legislature essentially assumed this performance would continue, shifted state dollars from the Homes to the Field, and counted on those federal and local dollars in the Homes budget. This budget will keep extreme pressure on the Homes to keep beds full and costs down, but I am confident they can meet this challenge, as they have done for the last six years.

My thanks goes out to all staff members at the Veterans Homes for their continued hard work and dedication to each resident. Thanks to their incredible work and the diligent efforts of Washington State's veteran advocates, WDVA will continue *Serving Those Who Served*.

John King

"This was the smallest statewide Capital Budget in history and one of the largest WDVA has ever been given."

Volunteers Needed at Tahoma National Cemetery

Individuals or groups that are interested in supporting the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent are needed to help maintain the tradition of volunteers that provide honor guards and assist in the public information center.

Dedicated on Sept. 26, 1997, Tahoma's volunteers have provided Washington state's veterans with the final military honors and respect they deserve.

"Tahoma National Cemetery is not the largest or the smallest," said WDVA director John King. "It is not the oldest or the newest. Because of its volunteers, it is just the best."

For additional information, contact Milton Till, chairman of the Tahoma National Cemetery Support Group at 253-862-9003, or Mary Willaford, chief of the public information center at 425-432-3909.



VFW Post 5052 Maple Valley, WA. Rifle Team Memorial Day 2000.

New VAAC Officers Elected

The Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) Chairman, Charles Karczewski, convened a regular VAAC meeting in Spokane on June 11. In addition to an update on the CARES Process, VAAC members received a briefing on WDVA's Veteran Field Services program. More information on this briefing is included on page 11.



George Edmundson



Richard Marin

Annual elections were also held for the position of Chair and Vice Chair. By unanimous vote, VAAC members selected George Edmundson, representing the Vietnam Veterans



VAAC members took a tour of the Spokane Veterans Home from Administrator Kathy Magonigle.

of America as Chair and Richard Marin, a member at large as Vice Chair. Edmundson and Marin will begin their terms in September. Members also received a tour of the Spokane Veterans Home from Administrator Kathy Magonigle.

The next VAAC meeting is scheduled for September 12 in Leavenworth. For additional information contact Cyndee Baugh at cyndeeb@dva.wa.gov or (360) 725-153.

Funds Available for Veteran Memorials

Governor's Committee looking for worthy projects

The Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) is accepting proposals for veterans' memorials in Washington state. The deadline for accepting proposals is Sept. 1, 2003. Funding for accepted proposals comes from the Veterans Remembrance Emblem Fund. The fund - established in 1990 - is administered by the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, in partnership with the Department of Licensing. The Emblem Fund permits eligible veterans to purchase and display approved decals on their vehicle license plates through the Department of Licensing, with net fees being deposited in a special account held by the state treasurer. RCW 46.16.332 allows disbursement of these funds by the VAAC, for direct costs of contracting, contract administration and project administration related to: projects that pay tribute to living and deceased veterans; upkeep and operations of existing memorials and; land acquisition and construction of new memorials. Nine projects statewide received funding in 2002, totaling more than \$29,000. The VAAC is composed of 17 members and advises the governor and the director of the Department of Veterans Affairs on issues and programs concerning veterans. To request proposal requirements or receive additional information, contact Cyndee Baugh at (360) 725-2153 or e-mail at cyndeeb@dva.wa.gov

VAAC Seeks Nominations for Outstanding Service to Veterans

This program, sponsored by the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) is an annual program, and the results are announced in November, in conjunction with Veterans Day. The categories to consider are:

- Outstanding Veteran Volunteer
- Outstanding Volunteer Service Officer
- Outstanding Employee
- Outstanding Male Non-Veteran
- Outstanding Female Non-Veteran
- Outstanding Youth Patriotic Service Award

Nominees will be judged in four areas. List the nominee's achievements, activities, and contributions in each. This is an equal opportunity award open to all who meet the criteria. Nominations may be submitted by any person, organization, or institution and sent to WDVA by September 15, 2003. Call Cyndee Baugh at (360) 725-2153 for a nomination form or download one from the WDVA web site at: www.dva.wa.gov.



VLC Conference

The Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC) held an annual conference at the Pacific Beach Naval Recreation Center on May 30-31. The well-attended conference provided an opportunity for VLC members to discuss issues from the 2003 Legislative Session as well as prioritize bills that failed to pass this year but will be eligible for consideration in the 2004 Session. The Key Note Speaker at the conference was State Senator Dave Schmidt from the 44th Legislative District. Senator Schmidt provided an analysis of the fiscal impact the active duty military installations and Veteran's Administration has on the economy of Washington State, particularly in the Puget Sound region. Senator Schmidt spoke about the upcoming Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) that will recommend to Congress what bases to close. According to Senator Schmidt, perceived community support, or lack thereof, is a key factor considered by the Commission as is the cost of

living for assigned service members. Senator Schmidt also thanked the VLC for supporting legislation directing the Joint Committee on Veteran's and Military Affairs to develop a statewide strategy for addressing BRAC issues before the Commission arrives in 2004. VLC members also participated in a seminar on the state legislative process from Phil Watkins, a Third House Lobbyist. Phil shared valuable information on everything from how to organize information into a bill draft - to how legislators might perceive different issues. The VLC is comprised of individual veterans and representatives from Veterans Service Organizations. The Coalition meets regularly during session to discuss, develop, prioritize, track and testify on legislation that impacts veterans and their families. For more information on the VLC or to become a member, contact the VLC Treasurer, Heinz Haskins by e-mail: heinz.haskins@attbi.com or by phone: 253-581-0596.



Veterans Legislation Summary

2003 Legislative Session
www.dva.wa.gov

HB 2064 - Studying methods of avoiding military base closure
Summary: The Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs must conduct a study of Washington military facilities to determine and coordinate efforts needed to ensure the facilities retain their premier status with respect to their national defense missions.
Status: Signed by the Governor on April 21 / Chapter 81, 2003 Laws.

SB 5049 - Veterans' history month
Summary: Declares that November of each year will be known as veterans' history awareness month. Encourages educational institutions, public entities, and private organizations to designate time for appropriate activities in commemoration of the contributions of America's veterans.
Status: Signed by the Governor on May 9 / Chapter 161, 2003 Laws.

SB 5189 - Korean Conflict veterans, higher education tuition exemption
Summary: The governing boards of the state's public higher education institutions may waive all or a portion of tuition and services and activities fees for veterans of the Korean Conflict. In order to receive the waiver, veterans must have served on active duty in the military or naval forces of the United States any time between June 27, 1950, and January 31, 1955. Institutions are required to charge a registration fee of a least \$5.
Status: Signed by the Governor on May 9 / Chapter 160, 2003 Laws.

SB 5273 - Veterans/employment exams
Summary: Eliminates the restriction that veterans must claim scoring preference on civil service exams within 15 years of release from active military service.
Status: Signed by the Governor on April 17 / Chapter 45, 2003 Laws.

SB 5358 - School diplomas for veterans
Summary: Authorizes issuance of high school diplomas to veterans of the Korean conflict who were honorably discharged and left high school before graduation to serve in the Korean conflict.
Status: Signed by the Governor on May 12 / Chapter 234, 2003 Laws.

SB 5463 - Overseas voting
Summary: Authorizes a pilot program for military and overseas voters to vote over the Internet.
Status: Signed by the Governor on June 20/Chapter 17, 2003 laws 1st Special Session.

SJM 8008 - Veterans' retirement
Summary: The federal government is asked to allow retired veterans who are also disabled to receive the full amounts of their retirement and disability entitlements.
Status: Filed with Secretary of State.



National Notes



Study Shows Reform Efforts Improve Care in VA

The quality of health care veterans receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has improved significantly, according to a VA study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* recently. A major overhaul of the health care system that began in 1995 led to improvements in quality indicators.

Researchers for the study were from VA, Brigham and Women's Hospital, the National Quality Forum and the University of California. Using data from VA's External Peer Review Program, researchers compared quality indicators of preventive, acute and chronic care with similar data from the Medicare fee-for-service program.

Researchers found significant improvement for all quality-of-care indicators measured by VA between 1994 and 2000. They also found VA outperformed Medicare on all 11 markers the two systems had in common between 1997 and 1999, and on 12 of 13 indicators measured between 2000 and 2001.

In 2002, the Institute of Medicine recognized VA for implementing the kind of changes it had recommended the previous year to improve the quality of health care in America.

"These findings show the amount of improvement that's possible when managers are accountable for improving quality as well as the reliability of computerized information about their progress in achieving that goal," said Sec. of VA Anthony J. Principi.

Source: U.S. DVA News Release – June 3, 2003

New Web-based application replaces Standard Form 180

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has announced an improved on-line process for requesting documents from veterans/retirees or the veteran's/retiree's next of kin. Go to vetrecs.archives.gov Requester will be prompted to supply all information essential to process the request. The new procedure will eliminate mailroom processing time, as well as delays that occur when more information is needed.

Source: US National Archives & Records Administration

VA Secretary Praises Work of Presidential Task Force

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi praised the work of a presidential task force commissioned to improve coordination between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD).

President Bush announced the creation of a 15-member task force on Memorial Day 2001. The task force's goals were to identify ways to improve health care delivery to veterans and DoD beneficiaries and to strengthen the VA-DoD partnership for health care services. Among the items studied were budgeting, billing, reimbursement, procurement of supplies and services, data sharing and information technology.

Coordination between VA and DoD has been a key part of Principi's agenda. Through a number of initiatives, including a joint VA-DoD executive council and sharing agreements between local VA and military medical facilities across the country, the two largest cabinet departments are already in the process of implementing 21 of the task force's 23 recommendations.

The task force also addressed funding for VA's core medical care mission — providing health care for veterans with military disabilities or low incomes.

Principi noted that the President's 2004 budget request for VA includes an unprecedented \$27.5 billion in discretionary funding for medical care, which fully funds health care for all core veterans and is consistent with the recommendations of the task force.

The presidential task force was co-chaired by Dr. Gail R. Wilensky, former head of the Health Care Financing Administration, former Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt and the late New York Congressman Gerald B.H. Solomon.

Source: U.S. DVA News Release – May 28, 2003

National Veterans Wheelchair Games Come to California

More than 500 disabled veterans will compete in the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world, the 23rd National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Long Beach, Calif., during July 5-9.

The games, presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), are open to all U.S. military veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, certain neurological conditions, amputations or other mobility impairments. The VA Long Beach Healthcare System, VA's Desert Pacific Healthcare Network and the California Paralyzed Veterans Association are hosting the games.

Veterans will compete in track and field, swimming, basketball, weightlifting, softball, air guns, quad-rugby, 9-ball, bowling, table tennis, archery, hand cycling, a motorized rally, wheelchair slalom and a 5-K road race. A power soccer game will be held as an exhibition event.

The 23rd National Veterans Wheelchair Games begins July 5 with a kick-off event featuring a wheelchair basketball demonstration, as well as the 2003 Disabled Sports, Recreation and Fitness Expo. The Expo is among the largest exhibitions of products and services related to the health, well-being, sports and recreational needs of people with disabilities. A "Kids Day at the Games" is scheduled July 8, when local scouts and other youth groups will interact with the wheelchair athletes, watch them compete, and volunteer at the track and field events.

Many of the events will be held at the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center, also the site for opening and closing ceremonies. Other venues include California State University at Long Beach, Cal Bowl, Belmont Shore Pool, El Dorado Park, Rainbow Harbour and the Long Beach VA Medical Center campus.

For more information about the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, or to follow events as they happen, visit the Games website at www.wheelchairgames.org

Source: U.S. DVA News Release – May 28, 2003

Certain Veterans May Be Eligible for Copayment Refunds

Veterans insured by the Hartford Life Insurance Company or the USAA Life Insurance Company may be eligible for a refund of their VA copayments.

In a recent settlement with the Department of Veterans Affairs and a coalition of insurance industry groups, Hartford and USAA paid VA approximately \$11.1 million. The settlement involves payments for care provided by VA to insured veterans with Medicare or Tricare supplemental coverage from Jan. 1, 1995 through Dec. 31, 2001.

Veterans insured by Hartford or USAA who paid VA copayments for VA medical care they received from Jan. 1, 1995 through Dec. 31, 2001 may ask VA for a refund of their copayments on a first-come, first-served basis. All requests for refunds must be postmarked by April 1, 2004.

VA will notify by mail those veterans who may be eligible for refunds according to records on file. Other veterans who believe they may be eligible for a refund may obtain a claims application form by calling a special toll-free number (1-866-258-2772) between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., EST, Monday through Friday. They also may download the application from the VA website at www.va.gov/hottopic/.

Source: U.S. DVA News Release – April 25, 2003

Combat-Related Special Compensation

The Department of Defense, working together with the Department of Veterans Affairs, announces the start of a new compensation program for many disabled military retirees, Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC). The new special compensation becomes effective May 31, 2003, for qualified combat-related disabled retirees. Payments for qualified retirees will accrue beginning June 1, 2003, with first payments possible on July 1st.

Eligible Members are those retirees who have 20 years of service for retired pay computation and who either have disabilities because of combat injuries for which they have been awarded the Purple Heart or who are rated at least 60 percent disabled because of armed conflict, hazardous duty, training exercises, or mishaps involving military equipment.

Payments will equal the amount of VA disability compensation for combat-related disabilities, but will be reduced for those retirees whose retired pay exceeds what they would have received for length of service. Payments are limited to the amount of the retired pay reduction resulting from receipt of VA disability compensation.

The payments are considered to be tax exempt pending a review by the Armed Forces Tax Council.

Members must apply to their own branch of service using **DD form 2860**, Application for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC).

Each Uniformed Service will review the applications of their own retirees, with the Department of the Navy reviewing applications for both the Navy and Marine Corps. Payments will be retroactive to June 1, 2003, for all approved applications, no matter when received, to the extent otherwise allowed in law, providing the applicant is otherwise qualified.

Service reviews will determine which disabilities, if any, are combat-related or are the result of an injury for which the member was awarded a Purple Heart. Combat-Related includes those disabilities that are the direct result of armed conflict or from conditions that simulate combat, or that result from the performance of uniquely hazardous military duties, or caused by an instrumentality of war.

Services will presume that disabilities awarded VA disability compensation based on service-connected exposure to hazards, which are clearly combat-related, are combat-related for the purpose of CRSC. These include Agent Orange, Gulf War illnesses , Radiation Exposure, Mustard Gas and Lewisite. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) will require combat-related documentation.

Retirees will be informed of denied applications and the reason for denial. They may reapply later if they are able to show they meet the program criteria or appeal the decision if they believe their disabilities were combat-related, but were denied compensation by their Service.

Additional information and Form DD 2860 are available on the WDVA web site: www.dva.va.gov or by contacting Andrew Clark at 360-586-1069 or at andrewc@dva.va.gov.

Source: U.S. DVA News Release - May 2003

VA Committed to Helping Victims of Sexual Trauma

Veterans who suffered personal assault or sexual trauma while on active military duty, including service at one of the military academies, may be eligible to receive VA disability compensation, counseling and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Veterans who suffered personal assault, rape, domestic battering or stalking while on active duty may have lingering physical, emotional or psychological symptoms.

VA has specially trained professionals to coordinate care and counseling for sexual trauma victims. These health care professionals are sensitive to the physical and psychological effects of sexual trauma or personal assault.

Additional information regarding medical care and compensation for veterans is available at VA regional offices or medical centers. The telephone numbers can be found in local directories under the "U.S. Government" listing.

In most areas, for information about disability compensation and VA pensions, callers can use the following toll-free number: 1-800-827-1000. For health care and copayment information, call 1-877-222-8387. Information is also available on VA's Web page, www.va.gov.

Source: U.S. DVA News Release – May 14, 2003

VA Assists Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced a program for veterans who own small businesses to discuss business opportunities with General Dynamics Corporation.

On April 23, General Dynamics locations throughout the nation held a Veterans Appreciation Day, making its buyers and program managers available to meet with veterans interested in doing business with the company.

VA's Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE) was established by the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 to promote business ownership and expansion opportunities for veterans. The center provides training and educational programs, market research and assistance to veterans seeking access to prospective business partners.

More information is available by visiting the CVE Web page at www.vetbiz.gov/.

Source: U.S. DVA News Release – April 10, 2003

108th Congress Legislation



Servicemembers Civil Relief Act H.R. 100

Legislation to strengthen the rights and protections afforded military personnel called to active duty, including the provision of automatic 90-day stays for civil proceedings, protections against evictions due to nonpayment of rent, and limiting interest to 6 percent on outstanding loan balances.

STATUS: Passed the House on May 7, 2003; Referred to the Senate

Enhancing Cooperation and Resource Sharing Between the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense H.R. 1911

Legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance cooperation and the sharing of resources between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

STATUS: Passed the House on May 21, 2003; Referred to the Senate

Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2003 H.R. 1683

Legislation to provide cost-of-living (COLA) increases for disability compensation payments for veterans.

STATUS: Passed the House on May 22, 2003; Referred to the Senate

Veterans Health Care Funding Guarantee Act of 2003 S.50

Requires the Secretary of the Treasury to make available 120 percent of the amount obligated during FY 2002 and adjust the amount provided after FY 2005 based on the number of enrolled veterans and the number of others eligible for and provided care and the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index. Repeals other provisions.

STATUS: Introduced 1/7/2003

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Act S.1076

Authorizes construction of a visitor center at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

STATUS: Referred to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 5/19/2003

Washington Veterans Home Groundbreaking Ceremony



Several Legislators, residents, and Home Managers participated in the groundbreaking portion of the special event.



Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi addressed the audience, saying, "This grant reflects the federal-state partnership that is honoring our commitment to care for the men and women who have served in uniform. This partnership provides a comfortable home for veterans in a time of great personal need."



Gov. Gary Locke gives a thumbs up to WDVA Director John King and Secretary Anthony Principi, following the ceremony.



A large crowd of residents, staff members, local dignitaries and military staff joined in the historical event.

May 16, 2003



The Gospel Outreach Choir of Olympia performed several outstanding musical numbers during the ceremony.

Project History: Continued from page 1

WDVA proposed a Statewide Master Plan addressing the long-term care needs for Washington State's veterans. The 2001 Washington State Legislature provided \$16.7 million dollars allowing WDVA to apply for the 65% match from the Federal VA. The match was approved in December 2001 and WDVA began work on facility design.

This construction project is supported by the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC), the Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC) and the major Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) in the state – such as the American Legion, VFW, DAV, VVA, AMVETS, American Ex-POWs and the National Association of Black Veterans.

Design Principles:

The Construction Team defined the characteristics of desired programs and other nursing facilities that drove the entire design process. The Design Precepts are:

- ◆ Create a state-of-the-art facility;
- ◆ Provide a non-institutional facility that fosters aging in place;
- ◆ Balance respect for privacy with need for socialization;
- ◆ Design outdoor spaces that enhance the quality of life for residents and staff and;
- ◆ Build a facility that attracts and retains staff.

LEED Certification:

WDVA is pursuing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED Certification, for the project. WDVA and the

Architect & Engineering Firm, NBBJ, have included numerous items that contribute to the future sustainability of the facility and utilize environmentally friendly building practices. These include:

- ◆ A Natural Cooling system, rather than conventional mechanically cooled air.
- ◆ Utilization of reclaimed water for irrigation needs.
- ◆ Selection of materials from natural locally manufactured products.
- ◆ Use of bio-swales to address storm water run-off.
- ◆ Use of recycled building materials, including recycled steel.

The project is scheduled to be complete in the spring of 2005.

Benefit to Washington State:

For every dollar WDVA spends on providing care in the homes, it collects three federal/ local dollars. Conversely, veterans not receiving care in a state veterans home actually costs the state – and their families – *more* money when those veterans are placed in other community settings.

Construction Partners:

Project Management: WA State Dept of General Administration
Architect & Engineering: NBBJ
General Contractor/Construction Manager: MA Mortenson Co.

Construction Project Update

The upper parking area at the Veterans Home is now closed. Parking for residents, staff and visitors has been identified throughout the campus. Staff members and volunteers are encouraged to car-pool when traveling to the Veterans Home, as spaces are very limited. Questions or concerns about parking may be directed to Administration at (360) 895-4700.

■ Asbestos abatement continues in Buildings 1-5. Building 13 (Auditorium) will be abated prior to demolition.

■ Portions of Building 3 and 4, and the old parking shelters near the back gate were demolished in this first phase of construction.

■ The use of local businesses in a construction project is one of the criteria for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. RV Associates, a Port Orchard owned business, is working on-site handling the removal of dirt from the kitchen excavation and will perform the remainder of the dirt excavation as the project progresses.



Building 4 demolition



Building 3 demolition



(Left two photos)
Crews completed digging the kitchen basement the first week of June. Basement footings, stair walls and basement walls are scheduled to be in place throughout the month.



The new steam line will run through Retsil square connecting the new buildings with the campus. A ditch was dug early in June to accommodate the new line. One stone bench around the flag pole, will be temporarily relocated during this phase, but the remainder of the benches and monuments will remain intact.

Retsil Construction Project

You can help make Retsil a place Veterans Call HOME

Here is an exciting opportunity to become a part of this historic construction project!

Your donations towards furnishings will offer veterans home residents the chance to relax in one of four outdoor courtyards. Located between each of the resident neighborhoods, the courtyards offer a more private way for veterans to enjoy their own “backyard”.

For more information contact: The WA Veterans Home at 360-895-4700



Washington State Veterans Homes

Wish Lists

Our homes provide a safe and comfortable environment for Washington’s aging veterans, but it is all the extra touches provided by our volunteers that makes them special. The following are items each home “wishes” it could provide to the residents. Your help and support is appreciated.

Spokane Veterans Home Wish List:

- Large Pieced Puzzles
- Freestanding bowling ramp
- Parachute (sensory activities)
- Trivia Books
- Sensory Music
- Supply Carts - to be used for sensory equipment, animal supplies, family cart, etc.(have blue prints)
- Sentimental sing-along videos
- Movable dry-erase board for activities
- Dog and cat food
- Slot Machine w/blanks
- Bingo day sponsors (prizes, helpers, callers)
- Aromatherapy Steam Diffuser w/Aromas
- Table Mate (portable table for wheelchairs to pull under to do projects)
- Digital Clocks for night stands (large numbers)
- Facility Stereo System (have \$500 donated, need \$1,000 more)
- Large Bar-B-Que
- Funding for furniture in new 2nd Floor Family Room
- Automatic door opener for main dining room
- Expand patio area for large outdoor space for the residents
- New Computer for residents in the library (Internet capable)
- Wheelchair Van

Contact: Shane Price (509) 344-5788

WA Soldiers Home Wish List:

- Funding and volunteers to install a water line to the fishing pond.
- Hydration carts for 3 Nurses Stations
- Tacoma Rainier’s Baseball Game Tickets (Sunday games 10-12 tickets)
- 10 Fans for resident rooms

Contact: Lynn Zemke (360) 893- 4511

WA Veterans Home Wish List:

- Twin Sized comforters – machine washable and masculine colors or patterns
- DVD players need 2 (preferably DVD/VCR combo)
- 6 and 8 foot plastic-topped tables – foldable for outdoor activities

Contact: Catherine Shaw (360) 895-4376

WDVA is looking for VA Work-Study Students

- You can work part-time while going to school
- Flexible hours
- Two locations in Olympia
- Gain experience in veterans benefits, human services, accounting, state government, and more...

Contact: Steve Gill (360) 586-1070

Memorial Day

The Washington Soldiers Home and Colony in Orting held its annual Memorial Day Ceremonies on Monday, May 26.

Highlights at the Memorial Day event included Senator Paull Shin (D-21) - as keynote speaker. The Puyallup Community Band, under the direction of Rush Ward, provided music and the McChord Air Force Honor Guard posted the colors.



McChord Air Force Honor Guard



(Left to right) Senator Marilyn Rasmussen, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Acting Superintendent and Senator Paull Shin.

Did You Know?

Orting has an extraordinary number of distinctive graves topped by white marble slabs etched in bronze letters, denoting Medal of Honor recipients. Five Union soldiers who earned the Medal of Honor for Civil War deeds are buried in Orting - four in the Orting Soldiers Home Cemetery and one up the hill at Orting Cemetery.

- **George L. Houghton**, a 104th Illinois Infantry private from Brookfield, near Chicago
- **Albert O’Connor** was a sergeant in the 7th Wisconsin Infantry. He was a Canadian who joined the Union at Lodi, Wis.
- **William H. Sickles**, a sergeant from Fall River, Wis.
- **Alexander U. McHale** was from Ireland. He joined the Union army at Muskegon, Mich.
- **John Warden**, is buried at the town cemetery about a third of a mile up the hill and across the road. Warden, from LeMont, Ill., was a first lieutenant in the 55th Illinois Infantry.

In the Pacific Northwest, only Seattle’s Evergreen-Washelli Cemetery, with six, has more Medal of Honor graves than does Orting. Small American flags flutter at graves in the Orting Soldiers Home Cemetery for Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day for the tradition, first observed in 1868, of adorning Civil War graves with flowers. When the flags are removed at dusk , only those four Medal of Honor graves are flanked year-round by a pair of small flags.



Thank You!



Northrop American Legion Commander, Jim Nelson (right) presented SVH Rec. Manager Shane Price with fishing poles and tackle for the upcoming fishing season with money they raised from selling Blue Star Banners. \$3 of each sale went toward the home.



On Memorial Day the Sons of the American Legion out of Chewelah donated fishing poles, CD/Radios for resident’s rooms and fishing tackle, over \$400 dollars worth of donated items. All items off their wish list. Left to Right: Jerry Hjelle, State Commander Sons of the American Legion; Shane Price; Kathy Magonigle; and Tom Rancourt, Post Commander.

Washington State Veterans Homes

Celebrating National Volunteer Week



Volunteers at the Spokane Veterans Home put in over 500 hours throughout last year. The Spokane Garden Club received special recognition for their efforts in maintaining gardening areas.

Our volunteers make it possible to provide residents with activities, like Bingo, on a regular basis. They show up for fishing derbies, birthday parties and holidays. They bring books, clothes, comforters and homemade goodies.

Without our volunteers, the “extra special” bright days would all be just ordinary and lacking color.

To all who bring brightness and sunshine to our residents, thank you.



Thelma Huff was honored for being a volunteer at the Soldiers Home for 30 years. She plays cribbage with several residents each week. She is also a member of the Puyallup Emblem Club.

Thank You!



Donated Tickets Send Residents to a Rainier's Baseball Game

The Soldiers Home recently received eight free tickets from the Auburn Elks for a Rainier's Baseball Game in Tacoma. The residents would like to go to more games. If any organization would like to donate tickets for Sunday games. They should contact Lynn Zemke at 360-893-4511. (See Wish List on page 8.)

New Superintendent Appointed for the Veterans Home

Jerry Towne, WA Soldiers Home Superintendent was permanently reassigned to the position of Superintendent at the Washington Veterans Home in Retsil. This move comes at an exciting time in the Veterans Home history as construction has begun on the \$47 million replacement nursing facility.



John Lee, who was acting superintendent has returned to his role as Deputy Director in Olympia. Lee will focus on the agency-wide requirements of emergency preparedness, the increased focus on government accountability and the reform of the state's civil service system.

Operation Recognition - Spokane Veterans Home Resident Graduates

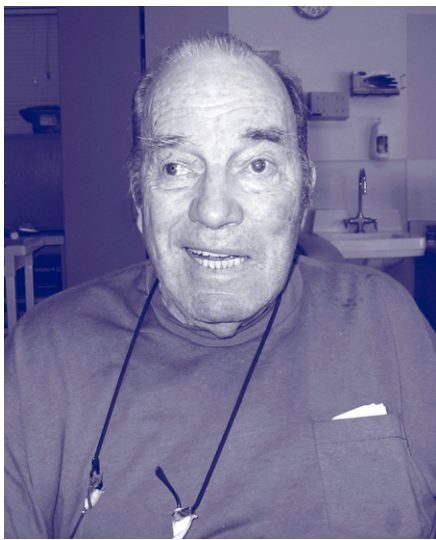
A bill sponsored by state Sen. Jim West, R-Spokane, and signed into law in May allows school districts across the state to issue the diplomas to Korean War veterans who didn't graduate. It was patterned after a 2002 law that extended that honor to World War II veterans who didn't graduate. A woman who contacted the West Valley School Board inquired about a diploma on behalf of her father, a World War II veteran,



George Hills entered the Army in 1944, was wounded and in a hospital in England by his 19th birthday. He was honorably discharged in 1946 as a Tech. Sgt. 4th Class. All four of his children and one granddaughter have graduated from West Valley. "It would close a chapter in my life," said Hills, who lives at the Spokane Veterans Home. And, he said he definitely wanted to be part of the graduation ceremony.

Straight Street Talk

With the Spokane Veterans Home Residents
Tell us about the best job and the worst job you've ever had.



"The best job was United Technologies in Sunnyvale, CA, because I achieved one of my goals to become a foreman and earn other pension. The worst job was working for the City of Imperial Beach, CA. I didn't like the guy I worked for, he would talk to you like a 'dog' and curse at you."

Travis Cart



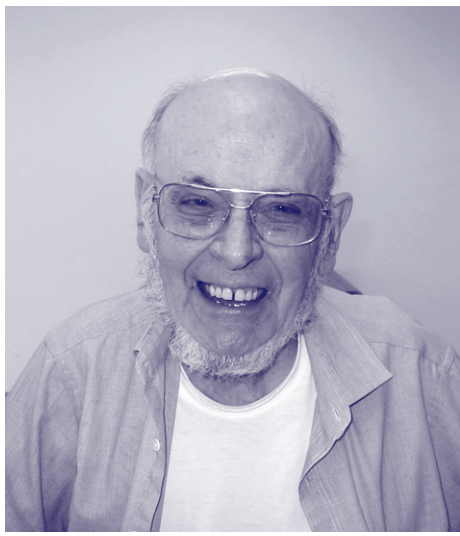
"My best job was playing guitar in a band called *Gene Paul and The Hot Notes*, for 10 years. My worst job was working at a brick-making factory...my clothes would always catch on fire."

Paul Nible



"The best job I had was working for Burlington Northern Railroad because I was paid well. The worst job was delivering newspapers in Harrington, WA. I had to get up early, pick-up the papers and deliver them by 6 am."

Don McCormick



"My best job was when I was self employed renovating homes, working my own hours and making good money. My worst job was being a box boy at a 'Mom and Pop' store. I had to deliver boxes of groceries on foot to apartment dwellers."

Glen Stratten

Washington to Salute Korean War Vets, Commemorate Armistice Signing

(Public invited, see invitation page 12)

July 27, 2003 marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice ending the Korean War. During the last three years, communities across the nation have been holding events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the beginning and end of the Korean War. Authorized by Congress, the Commemoration’s purpose was to:

- Provide the people of the United States with a clear understanding and appreciation of the lessons and history of the Korean War
- Thank and honor veterans of the Korean War and their families
- Pay tribute to the sacrifices and contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Korean War
- Highlight advances in technology, science and medicine related to military research conducted during the Korean War
- Recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States in the Korean War
- Highlight the role of the Armed Forces of the United States, then and now, in maintaining world peace through strength

The two symbols seen throughout these commemorations are special and deserve recognition:

The 50th Anniversary of the Korean War



on the Korean peninsula 50 years ago. The light blue and white streamer that runs through the center of the flag is the U.N. Battle Streamer. The 22 stars represent the 22 allied nations that fought side-by-side to save South Korea. The words “Freedom is not Free” were added by our veterans who, more than anyone else, know the great price of liberty. The flag is in both the English and Korean (Hangul) languages. In the center is the “Tae Guk” symbol from the South Korean flag, familiar to many as the symbol for the philosophy of Yin and Yang. In Korea, known as Eum and Yang, the symbol stands for peace and harmony. South Korea has adopted this as their official commemoration flag. The Institute of Heraldry assisted the United States of America Korean War Commemoration Committee with the design of the flag. A major goal of the Commemoration is to see this flag displayed by Commemoration Partners throughout communities all across the Nation to honor and thank the veterans of the Korean War, their families and next of kin of those who were lost.

Commemoration Flag is symbolic of the unified effort of the United States, the Republic of Korea and our allies to stop communist aggression



The focal point of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Crest is the three-lobed Taeguk, known as the sam-Taeguk. The three lobes of the sam-Taeguk are as follows:

Red and White stripes representing the United States.

Dark Blue representing South Korea .

The United Nations Light Blue with 22 Gold stars representing the 20 United Nations member states, plus the Republic of Korea and Italy, that formed the Allied Coalition.

Traditionally, the Taeguk depicted on the flag of the Republic of Korea represents two states of being, Heaven and Earth (spiritual and physical). The sam-Taeguk stands for three states of being: Heaven, Earth and Man. Heaven represents the spiritual, Earth is the physical and Man is the intermediary who embodies both the spiritual and physical.

The wreath and gold lettering symbolize honor and excellence. www.korea50.mil/welcome.shtml.

July 24, 2003 marks the 10-year anniversary of the dedication of the Korean War Memorial on the capital grounds in Olympia.

Prisoners of War Last to Come Home

The first of two prisoner of war exchanges, Operation Little Switch, took place between April 21 and May 3, 1953. It consisted of 149 U.S. military personnel, in need of immediate medical treatment, who were prisoners of the enemy. There were 127 Army, 19 Navy-Marine, and three Air Force personnel. Almost all of them had been wounded.

The second exchange occurred after the armistice agreement was signed. Operation Big Switch took place between August 4 and Sept. 6, 1953. In it, 3,596 U.S. military personnel were repatriated,

including 3,195 Army, 184 Navy-Marine, and 217 Air Force personnel. Slightly less than two-thirds of the former POWs had been wounded. 2,806 died while interned/POWs (Department of Defense figures as of June 1, 2000).

On August 12, 2003, a conference to honor all these POWs will be held at the Ft. Lewis American Lake Club (North Ft. Lewis) 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Fort Lewis Chapter of the Association of the United State Army and the 1st Military Brigade, the event will conclude the Korean

War Commemoration Program at Fort Lewis.

Featured speaker will be Dr. Lewis H. Carlson, author of “Remembered Prisoners of a Forgotten War.”

Entrance to Ft. Lewis requires a DOD vehicle decal or special clearance and driver picture ID. For additional information: 1st MP Brigade – (253) 967-9927.

Those planning to attend are asked to complete and send in the registration form below by Aug. 1, 2003.



COMMEMORATIVE EVENT HONORING PRISONERS OF WAR August 12, 2003, American Lake Club, Fort Lewis, WA 98433

Number Attending _____ Number who will buy lunch _____ Korean War Ex-POW? _____
Lunch will be available for \$10. (Pay as you go. Do not send money)

Have DOD vehicle decal? Yes _____ If No, Make _____ License# _____ State _____
Mail to: AUSA, PO Box 33181, Fort Lewis, WA 98433; Not later than August 1, 2003

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ EMail: _____

Comments : _____

In The Spotlight

“Serving Those Who Have Served” takes on new meaning when the service provider and recipient share a similar background. At the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, the number of employees who are veterans ranks high, providing a personal connection with clients not always achieved in other agencies. In an effort to introduce these dedicated employees, WDVA will highlight a different veteran/employee each issue.

1 SGT Alexander Deluao, USA (ret), was born and raised in Digos, Philippines, graduating from the University of Mindanao with a degree in Business Management. As a dual citizen of the Philippines and the United States, he registered with the draft board at 18, as the law required. After graduating from college, he accepted a position with Dole Pineapple in Hawaii, and upon arrival there, he notified the draft board he was in the U.S., as required by law. Less than 10 months later, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and began his military career with basic training at Fort Ord, CA.



Private Alex Deluao

During the next 21 years, Alex served in Germany, Belgium, Korea and numerous stations stateside. Starting in the infantry, he quickly moved to company clerk. Eventually, his interest in the legal field led him to becoming a paralegal specialist in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

His worst experience while serving took place in Germany in 1984, when he was involved in the investigation of a soldier’s suicide that turned out to be a hanging murder by another soldier.

His best and most memorable time was while stationed in Belgium early in his career. His assignment with NATO allowed him to travel and meet with members of NATO countries.

Alex started at WDVA as a work study in 1996, and today, he works at the Vet Service Center in Olympia, where he is the program assistant in Grants & Contracts. In 2001, he received the Distinguished Service Award and in 2002 received the Director’s Award.

Alex and his wife Aurora – whom he met while in college in the Philippines – have a grown daughter, Jacqueline. Alex and three of his siblings live in the Olympia area, and between the four of them, time is spent each day taking care of their mother and seeing to her well-being.



Alex Deluao, VBS

Addressing Goals for WDVA Field Services

Service to Veterans. That is really what the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Field Services is all about. Whether it’s service to veterans who need assistance filing a claim, or service to veterans by linking them with community resources, WDVA and its many partners are dedicated to meeting the needs of Washington State veterans and their families.

Those close to Field Services are probably aware of how close WDVA came to losing much of the Field Services budget during the 2003 Legislative Session. And while the Field is now stable financially, it is clear that better accounting and analysis of each and every state dollar received is necessary. WDVA must be able to illustrate the return on the state’s investment by consistently tracking claims, not just by number of claims, but by quality of the claim and its final rating.

A subcommittee of the Governor’s Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) examined the current claims processes and worked with WDVA on what improvements could be made. These subcommittee members, each a past National Commander of a Veterans Service Organization (VSO), agreed on the following goals for WDVA Field Services:

- ✓ Ready to rate / Successful Claims;
- ✓ Shorter processing times (current average is 178 days in Seattle Regional Office);
- ✓ Higher average rating;
- ✓ Fewer denials / appeals; and
- ✓ Focus on service officer training and expanding the network providing services in those areas currently underserved.

On June 11, the VAAC met in Spokane and unanimously endorsed these concepts. According to WDVA Deputy Director John Lee these ideas are not new. “We have been testing the concepts and are confident that the result will be better service to Washington State veterans and their families,” Lee said. “Our veterans deserve to be served by a consistent, statewide claims system that decreases processing time and increases the likelihood of a favorable rating.”

As a result of the subcommittee’s recommendations, WDVA is in the process of developing a basic contract that will be used between the agency and VSOs. These contracts will be implemented first at the Seattle Regional Office where VSOs have Service Officers working closely with Federal VA staff members. The ultimate goal of WDVA Field Services is to provide the best service and the best outcome for veterans and their families. Strengthening the claims process is the next step toward meeting this goal.

If you have questions or would like more information on WDVA Field Services, contact John Lee at (360) 725-2152 or john@dva.wa.gov.

Teaming Up to Support Whatcom County Military Families

The Whatcom County Red Cross and American Legion Post #7 hosted a social on May 18 for family members of service personnel from the Whatcom County area.

American Legion Post #7 adjutant George La Pold coordinated the event with the Armed Forces Emergency Services(AFES/ISS) at the Whatcom County Red Cross. Both the American Legion and the American Red Cross are organizations that help support the military members and their families. During this time of increased military deployment, the Red Cross is providing a lifeline between soldiers and their families with a 24-hour communication link, access to counseling, financial assistance, family support, veteran’s assistance and more.

“Family members of our military serving around the world make incredible sacrifices,” said Cecilia Stevens, Red Cross AFES/ISS Coordinator for Whatcom County. “These families in the Whatcom County area need a strong support system while their loved ones are deployed out of the country. We encouraged them to come to this social and connect with other families and with veterans, while at the same time learning more about the services that the Whatcom Red Cross has to offer them and those they love.”

There were several speakers, including Stevens from the Red Cross; Nikki Lazzarini , military wife and Red Cross volunteer; La Pold from the A.L.; Pat Stackhouse, Post #7 Commander; Susanne Harlandt, Armed Forces Red Cross Caseworker; and Dr. Bridget Cantrell, a local counselor of veterans and family support group facilitator.

“It takes a good team to provide special events like this one,” said Stevens. “Teaming up with the American Legion was a wonderful experience and we are looking forward to working together in the future.”

You're
Invited

Korean War Armistice Commemoration

The public* is invited to attend the Washington Statewide Ceremony to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice on Sunday, July 27, 2003, at 3 p.m., Watkins Field, the Fort Lewis Main Post parade field.

Co-hosts for the Armistice Commemoration Ceremony are the Governor of the State of Washington and the Commanding General, I Corps and Fort Lewis. The ceremony will include honors to Korean War veterans of all United States and United Nations Services; recognition of the 22 United Nations member countries that supplied ground, air, and naval forces and medical units to the United Nations Command; special recognition to the fallen and MIA from Washington State; and Retreat. The I Corps Band, a Korean Tacoma community choir and the Gospel Outreach Choir of Olympia will provide music.

Veterans of all wars, their family members and friends are specifically invited to attend. Veterans, wear your ribbons and medals. You earned them.

TAKE NOTE

***Fort Lewis is a closed installation.** Picture identification is required for access, with the exception of children under the age of 16.

Access to the installation for the Korean War Armistice Ceremony will be controlled. Non-military ID Card holders will be required to enter the installation via the DuPont Gate, I-5 exit 119. After vehicle inspection, they will be directed to satellite parking areas where they will be bussed to and from the event site.

Individuals with handicapped placards or license plates should enter through the DuPont Gate, exit 119. They will be provided a special pass with a map on the reverse side directing them to Watkins Field and handicapped parking areas near the event site.

A reception, hosted by AUSA, will follow in the Cascade Community Club (former Officers' Club). Cost is \$5.00 per person (children 10 and under free). Please fill out the following ticket reservation form and mail with enclosed check to AUSA, PO Box 33181, Fort Lewis, WA 98433. For reservations received by July 19, tickets will be sent by mail. Other tickets will be available at On Call located at the Main entrance to the Cascade Community Club.

KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE COMMEMORATION RECEPTION TICKETS

July 27, 2003, Cascade Community Club, Ceremony closing to 7 PM.

Number attending _____ at \$5 each = Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to AUSA

Mail to: AUSA, PO Box 33181, Fort Lewis, WA 98433

Mail tickets to: Name _____ Telephone _____

Street/PO Box _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

WA State's Korean War Memorial 10th Anniversary Brings Name Addition



July 24, 2003 marks the 10-year anniversary of the dedication of the Washington State Korean War Memorial on the capital grounds in Olympia, where the names of more than 500 Washington KIA are engraved.

This month, the name of James E. Stevens was added.

James Edward Stevens was born and raised in Everett, WA., later making a home for his family in Tacoma.

Chief Warrant Officer Stevens served in the U. S. Army during WWII and Korea. He was captured by the North Koreans and died as a Prisoner of War on May 15, 1951. He left behind his wife Olga Rubina Stevens, three sons and one daughter. Mrs. Stevens and one son are now deceased.

CWO Stevens was brought home in 1956 by his son, MSGT Kenneth Stevens, U.S. Marine Corps (ret), and is buried at Willamette National Cemetery in Oregon.

